

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SODA ASH IN JUNE 2005

Natural soda ash production in June was 932,000 metric tons (t), slightly higher than the previous month's revised production of 931,000 t, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 266,000 t, 3% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in June was 1.56 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in May was 575,000 t, 9% higher than the May 2004 level of 529,000 t.

Exports and imports of soda ash in May 2005 were 371,000 t and 745 t, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through May 2005, compared with those of May 2004, were as follows: production was 1% higher, imports 90% higher, exports 1% lower, ending stocks 13% lower, and apparent consumption 4% higher.

TABLE 1
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production ²	Ending stocks	
2004:			
May	935	299	1,340
June	894	252	1,240
July	963	318	1,400
August	929	266	1,490
September	907	230	1,420
October	933	323	1,400
November	902	295	1,370
December	936	338	1,210
Total (January-June)	5,390	XX	8,160
Year total	11,000	XX	16,500
2005:			
January	925	332	1,440
February	858	360	1,350
March	894	285	1,410
April	928	275	1,360
May	931 ^r	259 ^r	1,510
June	932	266	1,560
Total	5,470	XX	8,630

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN MAY 2005^{1,2}

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)	Unit value
Mexico	66,100	\$8,470	\$128
Canada	49,200	5,670	115
Spain	34,900	4,010	115
Chile	32,200	4,220	131
Japan	31,500	4,650	148
Indonesia	27,100	4,040	149
Thailand	24,500	3,650	149
Brazil	21,700	3,580	165
Korea, Republic of	15,500	2,110	136
Taiwan	15,100	2,110	140
Other	53,700	8,250	154
Total or average	371,000	50,800	137

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²June 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Free alongside ship value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, IN 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	Total	% of total
Argentina	1,400	14,700	8,500	25,200	--	49,800	3
Aruba	--	--	--	--	2,680	2,680	(3)
Australia	7,000	9,000	6,000	7,010	7,010	36,000	2
Belgium	--	20,000	--	12,800	--	32,800	2
Brazil	55,000	6,010	20,700	58,200	21,700	162,000	8
Canada	35,100	34,200	40,900	37,000	49,200	196,000	10
Chile	26,100	8,280	30,800	--	32,200	97,400	5
China	--	12,200	15,000	248	163	27,600	1
Colombia	13,300	8,500	10,000	9,250	10,900	51,900	3
Costa Rica	--	--	4,200	--	4,400	8,600	(3)
Ecuador	--	--	5,000	--	--	5,000	(3)
Finland	--	17	--	16	--	33	(3)
France	--	--	5,710	7,420	--	13,100	1
Guatemala	--	--	2,700	--	5,000	7,700	(3)
Indonesia	60,800	--	44,200	17,500	27,100	150,000	8
Italy	--	44	--	15	49	108	(3)
Japan	10,400	45,800	40,000	25,500	31,500	153,000	8
Korea, Republic of	13,000	20,300	13,900	15,600	15,500	78,300	4
Malaysia	10,500	--	--	30,500	--	41,000	2
Mexico	63,600	51,600	53,500	96,100	66,100	331,000	17
Netherlands	9,510	9,110	10,100	10,000	19	38,700	2
New Zealand	6,000	--	7,000	6,010	--	19,000	1
Pakistan	4	--	--	--	--	4	(3)
Panama	2,000	--	--	--	--	2,000	(3)
Peru	8,850	--	7,820	--	--	16,700	1
Philippines	--	14,000	--	5,700	9,000	28,700	1
Portugal	--	--	1,360	--	--	1,360	(3)
Russia	1,830	--	--	--	401	2,230	(3)
Saudi Arabia	13,000	--	14,000	12,000	--	39,000	2
South Africa	--	13,000	--	--	6,540	19,500	1
Spain	10,000	10,000	17,600	12,900	34,900	85,400	4
Taiwan	18,500	20,600	20,400	26,200	15,100	101,000	5
Thailand	16,500	598	19,900	36,800	24,500	98,300	5
United Arab Emirates	5,500	--	4,760	4,000	--	14,300	1
Venezuela	--	32,100	4,000	27,700	7,500	71,300	4
Vietnam	--	--	735	1,100	--	1,830	(3)
Total	388,000	330,000	409,000	485,000	371,000	1,980,000	100

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²June 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH^{1,2}

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value ³ (thousands)
2004:		
May	448	\$174
June	517	193
July	600	189
August	504	163
September	627	137
October	573	149
November	659	177
December	626	140
Total (January-May)	2,200	730
Year total	6,310	1,880
2005:		
January	644	158
February	807	220
March	1,470	351
April	511	186
May	745	158
Total	4,180	1,070

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²June 2005 data were not available at time of publication.

³Cost, insurance, and freight value at U.S. ports.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption ²
				Increase	Decrease	
2004:						
May	935,000	448	387,000	18,700	--	529,000
June	894,000	517	412,000	--	47,000	530,000
July	963,000	600	322,000	65,600	--	576,000
August	929,000	504	403,000	--	51,300	578,000
September	907,000	627	339,000	--	36,600	605,000
October	933,000	573	367,000	93,200	--	474,000
November	902,000	659	426,000	--	28,500	505,000
December	936,000	626	397,000	43,200	--	496,000
Total (January-May)	4,490,000	2,200	2,000,000	--	30,800	2,520,000
Total	11,000,000	6,310	4,670,000	7,650	--	6,290,000
2005:						
January	925,000	644	388,000	--	6,180	544,000
February	858,000	807	330,000	28,400	--	501,000
March	894,000	1,470	409,000	--	74,600	561,000
April	928,000	511	485,000	--	10,500	454,000
May	931,000 ^r	745	371,000	--	15,400 ^r	575,000
June	932,000	NA	NA	40,000	--	NA
January-May	4,540,000	4,180	1,980,000	--	78,200	2,630,000

^rRevised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.